

## STATE OF IOWA

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## Five Iowa Schools Named 2008 Blue Ribbon Schools

Schools nominated by the lowa Department of Education show gains in student achievement

**DES MOINES**, **Iowa** – The Iowa Department of Education today announced four Iowa public schools and one Iowa accredited non-public school have been identified by the U. S. Department of Education as 2008 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – Blue Ribbon Schools.

## The lowa schools are:

- Denver High School, Denver
- Pocahontas Area Elementary School, Pocahontas
- Runnells Elementary School, Runnells
- Southeast Elementary School, Waverly
- Holy Trinity Catholic School, Des Moines

"I congratulate these schools for receiving this national honor for their efforts to improve student achievement," said Iowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey. "As we face new challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I feel it is important that all Iowans ask our schools to continue to improve student performance. I also believe it is important for us to celebrate when schools set high goals and achieve them."

The No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: 1) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; and 2) Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

The schools were nominated by the Iowa Department of Education based on 2006-2007 achievement data.

A total of 320 schools across the country were named 2008 Blue Ribbon Schools. This year's winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on October 20-21. A complete list of 2008 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools is available at <a href="http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html">http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html</a>.

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The Iowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.